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**From:** Bain, Andrea [Bain.Andrea@epa.gov]  
**Sent:** 4/5/2022 3:49:39 PM  
**To:** Ferrell, Mark [Ferrell.Mark@epa.gov]; Opila, MaryCate [Opila.MaryCate@epa.gov]  
**CC:** Nitsch, Chad [Nitsch.Chad@epa.gov]; Fernandez, Cristina [Fernandez.Cristina@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** RE: WV DEP air permit - Morgantown

Hi Mark,

Thank you for scheduling this. Could you include Cristina on the invite? She is available.

Thank you,



Andrea Bain  
Deputy Director  
Air & Radiation Division  
US EPA Mid-Atlantic Region  
Phone 215-814-3292  
Email [bain.andrea@epa.gov](mailto:bain.andrea@epa.gov)



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**From:** Ferrell, Mark <Ferrell.Mark@epa.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 05, 2022 11:47 AM  
**To:** Opila, MaryCate <Opila.MaryCate@epa.gov>  
**Cc:** Nitsch, Chad <Nitsch.Chad@epa.gov>; Bain, Andrea <Bain.Andrea@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: WV DEP air permit - Morgantown

MaryCate - Morgantown Mayor Jenny Selin is good with tomorrow (Wednesday) at 1:30pm. I'll send a scheduler.

~Mark

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**From:** Opila, MaryCate <Opila.MaryCate@epa.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 4, 2022 1:16 PM  
**To:** Ferrell, Mark <Ferrell.Mark@epa.gov>  
**Cc:** Nitsch, Chad <Nitsch.Chad@epa.gov>; Bain, Andrea <Bain.Andrea@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: WV DEP air permit - Morgantown

Hi Mark,

Please see attached for the email I sent with my available times.

-Mary Cate



Mary Cate Opila

Air Permits Branch Chief  
Pronouns: she, her, hers  
US EPA Mid-Atlantic Region  
Phone 215-814-2041  
Email [opila.marycate@epa.gov](mailto:opila.marycate@epa.gov)



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**From:** Ferrell, Mark <[Ferrell.Mark@epa.gov](mailto:Ferrell.Mark@epa.gov)>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 04, 2022 11:17 AM  
**To:** Opila, MaryCate <[Opila.MaryCate@epa.gov](mailto:Opila.MaryCate@epa.gov)>  
**Cc:** Nitsch, Chad <[Nitsch.Chad@epa.gov](mailto:Nitsch.Chad@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** Fw: WV DEP air permit - Morgantown

MaryCate - two messages below from Morgantown Mayor Selin. I'll arrange a virtual call for us if you let me know when you'd like to do it.

~Mark

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**From:** Jenny Selin (4th Ward) <[jselin@morgantownwv.gov](mailto:jselin@morgantownwv.gov)>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 1, 2022 1:40 PM  
**To:** Ferrell, Mark <[Ferrell.Mark@epa.gov](mailto:Ferrell.Mark@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: WV DEP air permit - Morgantown

Mark:

Science center concerns:

The gas they are using is straight from the well. Needs to be regulated all together as one facility—energy and science center. Same board of directors as noted earlier.

The Morgantown Industrial Park is not in our city limits, but across the river adjacent to our city of 30,000 people, 30,000 students and 100,000 total metro area.

Our valley is prone to inversions, but the air quality is measured at the airport at the top of the valley. Needs to be measured near the facility and the facility not built or shut during poor readings.

Thanks,

Jenny

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**From:** Jenny Selin (4th Ward) <[jselin@morgantownwv.gov](mailto:jselin@morgantownwv.gov)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 30, 2022 7:17 PM  
**To:** Hannon, Arnita <[Hannon.Arnita@epa.gov](mailto:Hannon.Arnita@epa.gov)>; Ferrell, Mark <[Ferrell.Mark@epa.gov](mailto:Ferrell.Mark@epa.gov)>  
**Cc:** [brendt@nlc.org](mailto:brendt@nlc.org) <[brendt@nlc.org](mailto:brendt@nlc.org)>; Opila, MaryCate <[Opila.MaryCate@epa.gov](mailto:Opila.MaryCate@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: WV DEP air permit - Morgantown

We have an additional questions about the permit.

The natural gas energy group and the “mining” group have the same board of directors, should the entire project have been looked at as one for clean air purposes, requiring additional safeguards?

How do states regulate without the business specifying what it is with specificity? Do other states regulate this way?

How is sound regulated? It is a huge issue.

Is the federal government looking at ways to regulate or ban this activity in certain places? It seems inconsistent with proximity to schools, outdoor tracks, rail trails, hotels, neighborhoods, outdoor entertainment venues (newly renovated), it is across the river from our version of a wharf and river walk area. Neighborhoods will be hearing the sounds at all hours literally. We are in an area that regularly experiences inversions and will likely experience more and more emissions from this facility and other like it.

There are equity issues here, many parts of our community are suffering economically. Other states likely better protect their citizens and populated areas. Economically West Virginia as a state seems to take on polluting projects as a way to make ends meet. This causes conflict with other projects that depend on clean air and quiet neighborhoods.

Thank you for your responses,

Jenny Selin  
Mayor of Morgantown  
304-685-6569  
[jselin@morgantownwv.gov](mailto:jselin@morgantownwv.gov)

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**From:** Hannon, Arnita <[Hannon.Arnita@epa.gov](mailto:Hannon.Arnita@epa.gov)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 30, 2022 11:54:34 AM  
**To:** Ferrell, Mark <[Ferrell.Mark@epa.gov](mailto:Ferrell.Mark@epa.gov)>; Jenny Selin (4th Ward) <[jselin@morgantownwv.gov](mailto:jselin@morgantownwv.gov)>  
**Cc:** [brendt@nlc.org](mailto:brendt@nlc.org) <[brendt@nlc.org](mailto:brendt@nlc.org)>; Opila, MaryCate <[Opila.MaryCate@epa.gov](mailto:Opila.MaryCate@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: WV DEP air permit - Morgantown

Mark, thank you so much for your responsiveness and for your engagement with Mayor Selin. Appreciate the loop.

Arnita

*M. Arnita Hannon Christmon*  
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**From:** Ferrell, Mark <Ferrell.Mark@epa.gov>

**Sent:** Wednesday, March 30, 2022 12:33 PM

**To:** jselin@morgantownwv.gov

**Cc:** Hannon, Arnita <Hannon.Arnita@epa.gov>; brendt@nlc.org; Opila, MaryCate <Opila.MaryCate@epa.gov>

**Subject:** WV DEP air permit - Morgantown

Hello Mayor Selin

Thank you for taking the time to reach out. Your inquiry regarding the air permit issued by the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection has reached my desk.

The West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection (WVDEP) is the fully delegated permitting authority for the Clean Air Act for sources in West Virginia. EPA has oversight responsibilities of the WVDEP air permitting program.

As you mentioned, WVDEP has issued a construction permit to Marion Energy Partners LLC; Science Facility. The permit was issued after a 30 day public comment period. The permit regulates air emissions sources and allows for the construction and operation of four non-emergency spark-ignition engines. The permit requires emissions controlling devices to be installed on the engines.

For Clean Air Act purposes, this facility is considered a minor source of air pollutants. The EPA Region 3 Air & Radiation Division has completed a cursory review of the permit, and it appears to be consistent with applicable Clean Air Act rules and regulations.

Thank you again for your interest and outreach, Mayor Selin. I am happy to try and answer any questions you may have or provide any information you may need regarding EPA's activities and perspectives under our purview.

~Mark

**Mark Ferrell**, State and Congressional Liaison

Office of Public Affairs | U.S. EPA Region 3

(304) 542-0231  [ferrell.mark@epa.gov](mailto:ferrell.mark@epa.gov)

<https://www.epa.gov/aboutepa/epa-region-3-mid-atlantic>

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**From:** Jenny Selin (4th Ward) <jselin@morgantownwv.gov>

**Sent:** Tuesday, March 29, 2022 9:40 AM

**To:** Carolyn Berndt <[Berndt@nlc.org](mailto:Berndt@nlc.org)>

**Subject:** Re: Upcoming Webinars - Clean School Buses and Stormwater

Issues regarding a science facility/likely cryptocurrency operation permit which has been granted by the WVDEP

In a populated valley directly across the river from Morgantown, schools, and neighborhoods:

Air pollution, equivalent to a power plant,

Running raw natural gas through four huge engines,

Serious sound pollution, 24 hours a day, fans needed for cooling?

Separating the energy source analysis and the engine facility analysis when the members of the board of directors are the same and they are in the same industrial park

Our state DEP and Legislature has decided that they dont need to know the type of business they are regulating and so accepting "science facility" for a data processing center, likely a cryptocurrency or bit coin facility. Our County Commission also cannot get anyone to admit what the facility is.

The permit has been approved, now what? People in our community are frustrated, sad and angry, our rail trail, parks, newly renovated amphitheater, hotel, and restaurants are along the river across from this facility. Schools are on both sides of the river. We are a college town with federal facilities, two hospitals and the flagship university for our state.

People have written lots of letters with more specifics which I could forward.

Help!

Jenny Selin

Mayor of Morgantown

1224 Fairlawns

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